The individual clubs' stories

Henny Penny

The Henny Penny Demonstration Club was organized in the fall of 1964. This club was organized through the effort of the late Mr. G. L. James and the Extension Agent, Miss Burger. The club was organized for the purpose of helping the ladies in community activities, learn new ways to lessen household chores, create hobbies and participate in competitive activities.

Our first meeting was held at the Canaan Baptist Church. J. C. Webb was elected president and Dorothy Scruggs, secretary. They served in office for four years. The club was named Henny Penny. This name was given by Frances Lewis.

We have achieved many things. Each year we give money to seniors graduating from school, whose mothers are members in our club. We also contribute to the Rescue Squad.

Other functions of our group are paying federation dues, sending young children to 4-H Camp at Holiday Lake by giving each one-half of their expense. We give fruit baskets to the sick, flowers to the members of our club in case of death in their immediate family.

Each year we have our annual Christmas party and exchange gifts. We also have a cook-out in July, this is a family gathering.

Some of our members have made many interesting tours to such places as the Cotton Mill in North Carolina, Richmond (Clearbrook, Va.).

We have had Fund Raising Drives such as selling picture albums, brag books and other merchandise. The club members really enjoy their annual auction.

We enjoy the fellowship of getting together and sharing ideas.

Our present membership is 22.

Our officers are as following: president-Mrs. Revella Austin, vice-president-Mrs. Catherine Fowler, secretary-Mrs. Leslie Humbles, treasurer-Mrs. J. C. Webb, pennies for friendship treasurer-Mrs. Doris Johnson, Reporter-Mrs. Mary Randolph, federation goal leader-Mrs. Dorothy Turner.

Appomattox County Extension Homemakers Council members shown above are: Mrs. Margaret Ferguson, Mrs. Fannie Farrar, Mrs. Geraldine Marshall, Mrs. Ruby Williamson, Mrs. Revella Austin, Mrs. Ethel Evans and Mrs. Margaret Lee.

Appomattox

The Appomattox Homemakers Extension Club was the third home demonstrator's club to be formed in Appomattox County in 1936.

There was a slump in membership and it was reorganized in 1943 in the home of Mrs. Fannie Booth with twelve members present. At this meeting a new slate of officers was formed.

Presidents that we know of included Mrs. Glenn, Mrs.

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Lee

Thirteen ladies met with Mrs. Mollie Torrence on June 13, 1936 for the purpose of organizing a Home Demonstration Club.

Mrs. Ella Anderson was the club's first agent, and while club members were discussing a name for the new club, she suggested the name "Lee", since the members' homes were so close to the Civil War surrender grounds. This was agreeable to all.

Known charter members included Mrs. Mollie Torrence, Mrs. Ida O'Brien, Mrs. Hallie Morris, Mrs. Bessie Torrence, Mrs. Sara Cladwell, Miss Ora Gilbert, Mrs. Bernice Gilbert, Miss Mary Sue Gordan, and Mrs. Annie Webb.

Though there are no records, club members believe that Mrs. Ida O'Brien was the first president of the club, and Ora Gilbert the first secretary and treasurer.

Some of the presidents through the years have included Lora Mitchell, Jessie Gordon, Catherine Perdue, Annie Webb, Pearl Torrence, Lorene Lucado, and Miss Mildred Alvis.

Current officers include: Geneva Childers, president, Annie Webb, vice president, Catherine Perdue, secretary and treasurer, and Lorene Lucado, federation goal.

Mrs. Penny Mongold, Vice-President of District 11.

County Line

The County Line Homemakers Club was formed on October 20, 1975.

The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Helen McDaniel of Route 1, Appomattox. Approximately 20 ladies attended that meeting, including Mrs. Shirley Walton, Extension Agent and Mrs. Florence Trent, County Chairman.

Officers for the following two years were elected included Gayle Nash, president, Helen McDaniel, vice president, Linda Archer, secretary and May Zimmerman, treasurer. The highlight of our first year was the December meeting in the home of Jeanette Balthaser when we decorated cans and filled them with cookies to take to the nursing homes.

The next year which was the bicentennial year we decided to make a "friendship quilt" and sell tickets to raffle it off at Railroad Day. Each member made a 12" square block and we sewed them together and made the beautiful quilt which proved to be a very successful way to raise money for our club's treasury. Because of it we were able to donate money to the Rescue Squad, volunteer fireman's dinner 4-H Scholarships and other worthy causes. Besides donating money our club has provided cookies to the walkers of the March of Dimes Walk-a-thon and gifts to the 4-H'ers Party for underprivileged children each year since we began.

Our club meets the third Monday of each month at 7:30, usually at one of the members homes. We always begin the meetings with devotions, and continue the suggested order of business provided in the handbook. Club members take turns presenting the programs depending upon which topics interest them most.

We have a lot of fun at the meetings besides conducting our "serious" business. One month each member brought a plant from home and we held a big auction, with Wanda Lively serving as "auctioneer." This was one of the first ways the club raised money. Also we have had several covered-dish suppers and enjoyed the fellowship of our members families. But the most enjoyable time of each year is our annual Christmas Party held at different local restaurants when we have our dinner and exchange gifts and reveal our "secret pals".

At the present we have 13 members and our officers include Linda Thoma, president, Gladys Tucker, vice president, Wanda Lively, secretary, May Zimmerman, treasurer, and Gayle Nash, Federation Goal Leader. We have gained much personal satisfaction as well as a great deal of knowledge from all the workshops and information on various subjects that extension service provides and we are grateful for this opportunity.

Stonewall

Like the other clubs in Appomattox, the Stonewall Club has been active in fund-raising activities since its inception.

Each year the club members prepare at Christmas a basket of food for a needy family in the neighborhood. The members bake pies for the annual Concord Volunteer Firemen's Carnival and they donate baked goods to the Concord Rescue Squad for their annual Rummage Sale and marathon.

The members have been giving money to be used for camp scholarships at the 4-H camp each summer for several years. In order to raise money the club members sell Stanley Home Products each spring.

Officers of the Stonewall Club are: Susie Krantz, president; Helen Thomas, vice president; Virginia Gillaspie, federation goal leader.

Oakville

The Oakville Extension Homemakers Club was the second home demonstration club (as called then) to be organized in Appomattox County. It was organized by Mrs. Ella Anderson in July of 1936 at the home of Mrs. Ed Owen.

The club had 11 members when it was first organized. They were: Mrs. O. W. Martin, Mrs. Clarke Moore, Mrs. Wiley Moore, Mrs. Charlie Lewis, Mrs. Billy Williamson, Mrs. T. G. Marsh, Mrs. Grace Moore, Mrs. Elmo Wilkerson, Mrs. Clarence Adams, Mrs. Ed Owen, and Mrs. William Harvey.

The initial officers of the club were: Mrs. O. W. Martin, Sr., president; Mrs. Clarke Moore, vice president; Mrs. Wiley Moore, secretary; and Mrs. Charles Lewis, treasurer.

By-laws for the club were drawn up by a committee consisting of Hazel Lee Martin, Audrey Phelps, and Frances Harvey. The by-laws were approved on Oct. 6, 1960, and revised in July of 1968, and again in 1973.

Members of the Oakville Club have supported a variety of projects throughout their years, ranging from 4-H organizations to the Railroad Festival.

Current officers of the Oakville Club are Mrs. Alice Drinkard, president; Mrs. Elaine Hampton, vice president; Mrs. Katie Martin, secretary-treasurer; and Mrs. Elizabeth Marsh, federation leader.

Rocks

The Rocks Homemakers Club was organized about 1937 or 1936. At present there are 22 members, including four charter members; Miss Cassie Baldwin, Mary Ranson, Nellie Roach and Pearl Wilson. Miss Baldwin has served as secretary since its origin. Mrs. Christine Ranson has served as county president from this club, and many other members in different capacities.

The minutes record that Homemakers, when first organized, met in the day time, with meeting sometimes all day. It now meets at night. The treasurer was made by paying 25 cents when your birthday came, now we pay annual dues.

Demonstrations in the past were given on:How To Iron A Shirt, Making A Mattress, and Cheesemaking and an applicable one for today in 1956, How To Save Time And Energy.

The Rocks Club has seen some special and wonderful ladies come and go. It is our hope that we can continue to maintain the highest ideals in home, church, school, and public life.

Pamplin

A group of ladies met in May 1936 in the home of Mrs. Emmit Turnes in Pamplin, under the leadership of Miss Ella Smith (Mrs. B. G. Anderson), home development agent of Appomattox, and formed the Pamplin Home Demonstration Club.

Mrs. Henry T. Terry was elected president and served in this capacity for a number of years.

Thought to be charter members other than Mrs. Terry and Mrs. Turnes were Mrs. Lettie Ligon, Mrs. Frank Irving, Mrs. W. M. Black, Mrs. W. J. Payne, Mrs. Lillie B. Mases, Mrs. Rixie Southall, Mrs. H. L. Reeves, Mrs. B. C. Massey, Mrs. J. D. McDearman, and Mrs. Lacy Dickerson.

In July, 1936, a home demonstration advisory board was organized to assist the home agent in planning the work. Mrs. Henry T. Terry was elected the first president. Mrs. Ernest Harwood served as vice chairman. Mrs. R. K. Martin served as chairman from 1954-1957.

Current officers of the club are Lizzie W. Jamerson, president; Grace Miner, vice president; and Pauline Reeve, secretary-treasurer.

One of the many projects enjoyed by the Appomattox County Extension Homemakers was the Picture Frame Workshop. Looks like these ladies are being framed!

Spout Spring

The Spout Spring club had its b eginnings when Miss Ella Anderson came to the community of Spout Spring and went to the home of Mrs. W.E. Dickerson and talked with her about organizing a h ome demonstration club in the Spout Spring area.

After the two women talked a while, they drove to the home of Mrs. Vara Cyrus. The women soon decided that a club would be a good asset to the community and they begam to spread the word around to the ladies in the community.

In a few weeks the ladies met in the home of Mrs. Cyrus and the Spout Spring Club was organized with a dozen members. Mrs. W.E. Dickerson was elected the first president. The club soon grew in numbers and was considered a real asset to the community.

Through the years the club has, at times, been very thriving and at other times, very weak.

At present, there is a small membership made up of a very few faithful members.

Mrs. Vara Cyrus is one of the charter members still living.

Wreck Island

Wreck Island Home Demonstration Club was the first Home Demonstration Club organized in Appomattox County by Miss Ella Smith (Mrs. B. G. Anderson), home demonstration agent in July 1936.

The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Cary Carson, Sr. in July of 1936, with Approximately 12 members present. There are three charter members remaining in the club: Mrs. Elsie Thornhill, Mrs. Elsie Thornhill and Mrs. Tilden Lee.

Today Wreck Island Club has an active membership of 19. It meets the third Wednesday of each month. Club officers are: president, Mrs. V. A. Staten, Vice-president, Mrs. Elsie Thornhill; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Tilden Lee; and Federation Goal Leader, Mrs. Ruth Carson.

The Wreck Island Club members have actively particapted in county district and state events such as tours, workshops, District III Virginia Federation Clubs, State Federation H. D. Clubs and Family Resources Conference in Blacksburg.

Members have exhibited at the Five County Fair, Farmville, Va. and the Virginia State Fair, winning a total of 850 ribons and cash money for exhibits and educational booths.

In July 1971 Mrs. Tilden Lee was awarded the State Federation Award for the best Feature Article at the Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs held at VPI & SU, Blacksburg.

The club's past presidents were Mrs. Annie Caldwell, Miss Kate Davidson, Mrs. J. R. Horsley and Mrs. Ella Leitner.

Miss Kate Davidson served as county chairman 1944-1947, Mrs. J. L. Harrison served as county chairman 1961-1962, Mrs. T. O. Davidson served as county treasurer 1970-1971, Mrs. Tilden Lee served as county reporter in 1969, and has served as county secretary for the past two years.

Members are active in community affairs. Annually they contribute to the Fireman's Carnival, also contributed to Special Olympics, to Central Va. Speech and Hearing Center, made ditty bags for the Red Cross. The sick in the community are remembered with cards and gifts.

Other projects of the club include many special interest workshops taught by club president, Mrs. V. A. Staten.

Members have participated in refinishing furniture, food preservation, clothing, reseating chairs. One member reseated 22 chairs.

Our club is 100% in favor of flying the Appomattox County Flag which is now being processed.

The club observed its 35th Anniversary in 1971 and observed its 40th Anniversary in 1976.

Members are looking forward to celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 1986.

Suburban

The newly organized Suburban Extension Homemakers Club held its first meeting in November. The club's 10 members live within surrounding neighborhoods; therefore, allowing the monthly meetings to be conveniently held in various member's homes.

The small membership facilitates personalizing the topics to be investigated through various club activities.

Bethany

One of the oldest clubs in the county, the Bethany Club was organized on April 4, 1937.

The first president of the club was Mrs. Ruth Jennings. Other officers were: Mrs. Calvin Ranson, vice president; Miss Marie Hamlin, secretary-treasurer; and leaders Mrs. Curtis Paulette and Rachel Paulette.

Other members included Mrs. Mott Harvey, Mrs. Phil Paulette, Mrs. Wilson Paulette, Mrs. Hunter Martin, Mrs. Tom Mason, Mrs. George Shreves, and Mrs. Joe Paulette.

Past presidents include Mrs. Phil Paulette, Mrs. Joe Paulette, Mrs. Mott Harvey, Mrs. Lucy Staples, Mrs. Ryland Staples, and Mrs. Melvin Grishaw.

Current officers include Mrs. Melvin Grishaw, president; Mrs. Carolyn Dickerson, vice president; and

Current officers include Mrs. Melvin Grishaw, president; Mrs. Bonnie Thomas, vice president; and Mrs. Carolyn Dickerson, secretary-treasurer.

Among the first demonstrations given was a demonstration on cheese, sometime in the early forties.

Country Lane

In the spring of 1952 Mrs. Ella Anderson, extension home agent for Appomattox County, met with a group of ladies in the home of Mrs. Isabelle Coleman on Route 460 to help organize a home demonstration club.

The purpose of the club was to train leaders to help plan special programs that would be helpful to the county homemakers or help improve our community. Our main interest was health and safety, food, clothing, house furnishings and community beautification.

Officers elected at the first meeting were: Mrs. Isabelle Coleman, president; Mrs. Ann Cole, vice president; Mrs. Ruth Cole secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Lelia Jones and Mrs. Wilsie Barlow, food-leaders; and Mrs. Blanch Conner, sewing leader.

In 1956, Mrs. Winnie Martin, president was the first member of this club to attend the Federation of

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Spout Spring Progressive

Eight years ago next September, a group of ladies met in the home of Georgia Fleshman to organize an extension homemakers club.

Those present at the initial meeting to form the club were Virginia Hicks, Ruby Scott, Celestral Turner, Helen Kelso, Thelma Hancock, Eloise Robinson, Carretta Elliot, Bessie Bolden, Georgia Fleshman and Margaret Ferguson.

Officers elected at the first meeting were: Georgia Fleshman, president; Virginia Hicks, vice president; Helen Kelso, secretary; Eloise Robinson, assistant secretary, Thelma Hancock, treasurer; Margaret Ferguson, reporter; and Celestral Turner, program leader.

The extension agent was Becky Johnson. The club was welcomed into the county organization on Nov. 6, 1972.

The club continues to contribute to the various charities, including the 4-H scholarship fund, the 4-H Christmas fund for foster children, Red Cross, the cancer fund, and the local rescue squad.

Meadow Lark

The Meadowlark Home Demonstration Club was started in 1974 when a group of women became interested in improving their landscaping and lawns.

They asked Mr. Cornell Goldman of the VPI Extension service to speak to and assist them.

Mr. Goldman, along with Mrs. Shirley Walton visited the women and asked them if they were interested in forming a home demonstration club.

The club was organized in June of 1975, with Louise Plunkett acting as installation officer at the occasion.

Meadowlark was the 13th home demonstration club formed in the county, and the members have taken the number "13" as their lucky number.

The officers were: Betty Pennix, president; Shirley Dillard, vice president; Jean Thomas, secretary; Dorothy Stevens, federal goal leader (chaplain), and Virginia Goode, treasurer.

Members of the club at present are Lillian Fleshman, president; Dorothy Stevens, vice president; Betty Pennix, assistant secretary; Annie Humbles, secretary; Virginia Goode, treasurer; Sally Jenkins, Learlene Abbitt, Shirley Dillard, and Janet Noble.

Pictured in the group are representatives from the fifteen Appomattox County Extension Homemakers Clubs who attended the District 3 Meeting in Halifax.